



# Runway replacement project underway

By Lt. Col. Leslie Welter  
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

In what marks the end of a multi-year planning and design process, Grand Forks Air Force Base has begun a \$27.5 million construction project to rebuild the base's runway. The project is the largest operations and maintenance project awarded in the Air Force in fiscal year 2004.

Originally constructed in 1958, the runway was built for fighters at a relatively narrow width of 100 feet. The runway is 12,350 feet long with a 1,000-foot long overrun at each end. When the base's mission changed to bombers in the early 1960s the runway was widened by 200 feet. As a result, the runway's crown, or high point, is offset from the center line of the runway by 50 feet.

This project will bring the runway up to current Air Force design standards. The KC-135 only requires a 150-foot wide runway to operate, making the outer edges unnecessary.

During early planning of the repair project, it became obvious that it would be

more economical to construct a new runway on top of the old one and correct the crown rather than removing and replacing the degraded areas.

During the project, the entire runway will be rebuilt. The new runway will be constructed with asphalt except for 1,000 feet at each of the ends, which will remain concrete. Although it will stay the same length, the crown will be readjusted to the center line and the width will be reduced to 150 feet by removing 75 feet of pavement down the length of each side of the runway.

The rest of the existing pavement will be "rubbelized," or crushed into small particles. The concrete removed from the edges will be recycled, placed back on top of the rubbelized pavement, and re-graded. After that, the 1,000-foot ends will be paved with 16 inches of concrete and the interior portion with nine inches of asphalt. Portions of the connecting taxiways will also be demolished, graded, and rebuilt in order to tie into the new runway. New airfield lighting will also be installed along the runway shoulders, and a new drainage system will keep water off the runway.

Construction is expected to be complete by Nov. 1.

# USAF Honor Guard visits Grand Forks AFB

By Senior Airman James Croxon  
Public affairs

Members of the United States Air Force Honor Guard demonstrated their precision and poise during a recruiting visit to Grand Forks Air Force Base March 1.

Chief Master Sgt. Kim Hector, Honor Guard chief enlisted manager, stressed the special care and attention the squadron places on its members. "We have our own support flight, our own dorms and an education office that actually brings instructors to the squadron for Airmen looking to earn a college degree," said Chief Hector.

The Honor Guard recruits Airmen from all over the world. According to Master Sgt. Andre S. Karr, superintendent, USAF Honor Guard Recruiting, many come directly out of basic training but anyone Master Sergeant and below is able to join.

Living in a dormitory with the Air Force's sharpest troops all working in the same field gives a true sense of camaraderie, said Senior Airman Francisco Garrigas, a member of the Honor Guard for three years.

"It's an amazing opportunity to pay honors to the fallen heroes of the country," said Airman Garrigas, who joined straight out of Basic Training.

It's not all somber formality for the Airmen of the Honor Guard. The members routinely raise the Colors at major sporting events, give tours of the Pentagon, and perform in ceremonies with other military services.



Photo by Senior Airman James Croxon

Master Sgt. Ricardo Osborne stands stoically while members of the Air Force Honor Guard drill team demonstrate the poise, concentration and teamwork necessary to represent the United States Air Force at events ranging from full-honor funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, to major public events such as sports events and air shows.



# Wing honors best, brightest warriors

## Civilian Program Specialist of the Year

**Mrs. Denae Grove**  
319th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Due to her efforts, the health and wellness center attained a 6 percent fitness class “no show” rate compared to 42 percent in Air Mobility Command.



## Civilian Program Manager of the Year

**Mrs. Carolyn Cooper**  
319th Comptroller Squadron

She directed the processing of mission-related travel documents and accurately dispersed payments of more than \$8 million. She also helped the base lead Air Mobility Command in two command-directed travel system transformations.

## Senior Civilian Program Manager of the Year

**Mr. Glenn Garrison**  
319th Services Squadron

He supervised marketing efforts to energize advertising and promote services across the installation leading to a first place finish in Air Mobility Command's Around the World in Ninety Days promotion, earning the base \$25,000.



## Airman of the Year

**Senior Airman Michael Edmonson**  
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

He was the first choice to train Utah National Guardsmen on the installation of medical evacuation equipment and has maintained a 100 percent pass rate on all quality assurance evaluations.

## Honor Guard Member of the Year



**Senior Airman Eric Wise**  
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

As flight sergeant, he led a team of 42 volunteers ranging from airman basic to lieutenant. He was responsible for performances at more than 250 funerals, retirements and colors ceremonies.

## Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

**Technical Sergeant Lonnie Lloyd**  
319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

He directed \$440,000 worth of bulk storage system upgrades. His efforts led to replacement of faulty system equipment and reinstated system integrity.



## Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

**Master Sergeant Shane Downum**  
319th Operations Support Squadron

His efforts ensured the success of more than 7,000 Coalition sorties during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.



## First Sergeant of the Year

**Master Sergeant Doug Evans**  
319th Operations Support Squadron

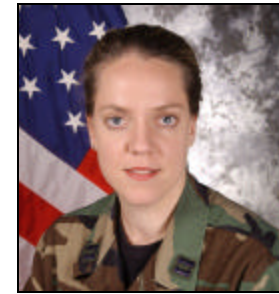
He served as the First Sergeant's Council vice president and helped relocate one-third of his squadron's dorm residents after a broken water pipe flooded the dorm.



## Company Grade Officer of the Year

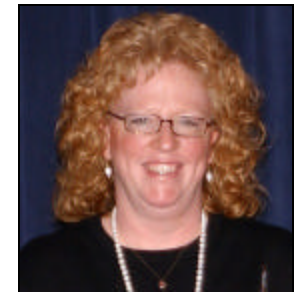
**Captain Maria Roberts**  
319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

She managed over \$60 million in assets and drove her squadron to 100 percent error-free fuel accounting for the past two years. She developed a winter-grade diesel conversion plan saving the wing \$5,000 in operational costs. She also participates in numerous community events, including the Hispanic/Latino Outreach Recruitment program.



## Joan Orr Award for military spouse

**Mrs. Bobbi Sturkol**  
As a school board member, she coordinated more than \$8 million in projects including \$2.6 million for the new Twining Elementary and Middle School gymnasium. She also coordinated more than 230 volunteers for 14 events.



# New base program promotes family fitness

**By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke**  
Public affairs

Grand Forks Air Force Base parents are finding Friday afternoons to be the perfect time to work out, thanks to the new Fit Family Fridays program here. The program allows parents to drop off their kids while they work out in the gym for an hour.

“I know a lot of people in my office who are always telling me they don't have time to work out because they have kids,” said Airman 1st Class Jessica Riley, program creator. “So I decided to help them out.”

While parents work out their children are taught good health and fitness practices by the health and wellness center

staff.

The initial response from parents and volunteers has been enthusiastic since the program kicked off March 4.

“We average about 35 children ranging from 4 to 12,” said Airman Riley.

The program also benefits Airmen. While parents are working out their children are being supervised by Airmen volunteers.

“The volunteers are great,” said Airman Riley. “They get along with the children and have a lot of good ideas for activities.”

“This program is a great opportunity for parents to get their kids active, make new friends, and learn about being healthy, while they work out,” said Airman Riley.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

**A base volunteer plays catch with a child in a pool during the “Fit Family Friday” event here. The program provides different events for children to participate in while parents work out.**

# Honoring the Warrior heritage

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke  
Public affairs

The base recognized its warrior heritage, and one Airman, with the help of his daughter, continued nearly three decades of service during the ribbon cutting ceremony for Heritage Hall here March 22.

The 46-year-old building, after numerous spot repairs, is going through a four phase total reconstruction.

“The concept of Heritage Hall began several months ago, before the finishing touches of phase 1 were complete,” said Col. Lee DeRemer, 319th Operations Group commander. “We wanted a showplace where the heritage of this wing could be displayed and honored by all.”

Heritage Hall commemorates different times throughout the wing’s history.

Building 607 is home to the 319th Operations and 319th Maintenance Group command sections along with the 319th Operations Support Squadron, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 319th Maintenance Squadron, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron and several wing staff agencies explained Col. Mark Ramsay, former 319th Air Refueling Wing commander.

“Today we take our first formal look at an investment in the future of the base. This is just one more



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

**Technical sergeants Ronnie Busha and Mark Bollig, 319th Maintenance Group and 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron respectively, reflect on the quote above the fountain in the base’s newly-opened Heritage Hall. The base’s history is prominently displayed throughout the hall.**

way that we’re investing to take care of our number one priority...our Airmen.”

After the ribbon cutting, Warriors witnessed the

reenlistment of Chief Master Sgt. William Karasko, 319th Operations Group, by his daughter 2nd Lt. Kristin Karasko, 319th Operations Support Squadron.